

# 'Washday Blues' Unlikely To Depress This Launderer Of Assorted Coins

It's a common occurrence in San Francisco. A man tips a cabdriver. A lady uses small change — nickles, dimes and quarters to buy something at a drugstore. And the reaction to the shiny silver coins the cabbie and the lady use is the same: "I see you're staying at the St. Francis."

The comment is warm and prideful because the St. Francis hotel, which washes its coins so they will sparkle like new, continues a tradition which goes back a long way to when silver dollars reigned in the City by the Bay.

The gentle traditions are many and varied. But the one that catches the eye of many people is still the practice at the hotel where coins are cleaned before they are offered as change to guests.

The tradition started after one of Western International Hotels' most famous managers, the late, dapper Dan London, arrived on the scene. In the late 1930's, he was known to many as "Mr. San Francisco."

London was one of the greats in the business, full of imaginative schemes to delight his guests that made his hotel famous for special treatment. (For example, London graciously tendered to 63 important guests his special card — all with the number "1.")

At the time, white gloves were a strict requirement for well dressed ladies. He believed that ladies' gloves should be protected from soiling dirty coins.

Thus, London ordered all coins at the St. Francis to be washed thoroughly before they were given to guests of the hotel.

And the practice persists to this day. Robert Wilhelm, general manager, whose genial, outgoing manner nicely balances a solid efficiency and awesome attention to detail, sees to it that the coin-washing is still handled with great care.

It takes a full-time employee now. Arnold Batliner, 69, has been handling the operation since 1962. He hasn't missed a single day in more than 14 years. He handles close to half a million dollars in coins each year.

Arnold's laundry room, besides having bank-like security, boasts a variety of interesting equipment. A 40-year-old Tahara silver burnishing machine is the main-stay of his operation. He also has a drying machine and a counter-wrapping.

Twice a day — sometimes three times during busy periods — Arnold picks up sacks of sorted coins from the cashier and takes them to the laundry, a windowless "cabin" inside the hotel's annex. His laundry can clean 5,000 pennies, 10,000



dimes, 4,000 quarters or 2,000 half-dollars. The denominations are cleaned separately — dimes first.

Apparently pennies are the hardest to clean. Batliner pre-soaks them for 15 minutes in a pickle crock, using water and a commercial toilet bowl cleaner! Then they are placed in a washing tank where silver washing compound, five gallons of the hottest tap water possible, and a secret ingredient — 20,000 pellets of buckshot to polish the coins by friction — are added. The machine rotates for 1½ hours. By the time the process is complete, the solution is slate-grey in color and the coins sparkle. Arnold stops the revolving drum pours out the murky, hot water and rinses the coins. Then he transfers both money and buckshot to a sieve that sorts the coins through the holes.

The coins are then spread on a table and wiped by terry cloth until dry under the heat of three 250-watt lights equipped with heat reflectors. According to Batliner, the money must be completely free from moisture before it can be counted and wrapped.

The sparkling money is put back into circulation by the comptroller. He also tries to keep fresh, crisp bills on hand for guests. But the coins get most of the attention.

They're a reminder that sometimes in this hurry-hurry world, some people still take pride and time to fulfill gentle and considerate traditions.

## Hospital Guild Releases Plans For Annual Fair

HENDERSON—"The Fair-est of Them All" will be the slogan for this year's Maria Parham Hospital Guild's Fair which will be held May 11 in the National Guard Armory from 10 a. m. until 9 p. m.

An annual event, the fair serves as a means of paying for the nursing scholarships which the Guild sponsor. The Guild

gives a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a young girl wishing to pursue the field, with the understanding that she will devote time to Maria Parham Hospital upon her course completion. This year, the affiliate is sponsoring four scholarships in the amount of \$4,000. The fair will complete the endowment fund of \$60,000 which will eventually pay for the scholarships when fully funded.

### Open House Set At Child Center

An open house will be held at the new Warren County Child Development Center at All Saints Episcopal Church on Thursday, May 5.

In a joint announcement from the Rev. Robert W. Orvis, All Saints priest-in-charge, and Duncan E. Munn, Mental Retardation Services coordinator, the public is invited to attend the open house.

Ceremonies will begin at 1:30 p. m. with formal remarks scheduled at 2:30 p. m., to be followed by refreshments.

"There has been a great deal of progress at the center since it opened in September and it serves as an example of what can be accomplished through the cooperation of concerned individuals, community organizations and governmental agencies," Mr. Orvis and Mr. Munn reported. "We believe it is a program that Warren County can be extremely proud of."

Activities, booths, and services highlighting the fair will be Arts and Crafts, desserts, canned and frozen foods; cake walk, canteen, children's entertainment including fire truck and pony rides and games.

For the door prizes, winners will receive a color T. V., doll house, boy's bicycle, oil painting and a porcelain doll.

Hospital services may include blood pressure check, diet information, blood sugar test, and scales for weighing.

The public is invited to attend the function.

There is a difference between shears and scissors. Scissors have two ring handles, each just large enough for one finger. Shears have one ring handle for the thumb and one long handle for two or more fingers.

Do not mix ammonia or toilet bowl cleaner with chlorine bleach. When mixed together, they release hazardous gases.

## Food Director Is Nominated

Mrs. Minnie White is listed in "The Arrow," State School Food Service magazine, as one of two nominees for Director of District XI. District XI incorporates Wake, Granville, Vance, Franklin and Warren Counties, as well as Franklin City schools.

If elected, Mrs. White will be installed at the state convention in Greensboro in June and will serve for the next two school-year terms.

Mrs. White is lunchroom manager at Northside School. She is a member of the Warren County Chapter of SFSA, NCSFSA and NSFSA. Mrs. White holds certificates from

Wilson County Technical Institute, Vance County Technical Institute, Halifax County Technical Institute and a workshop from U.N.C.-G. for areas of study in school food service. She is a member of the Burchette Chapel United Church of Christ.



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## Warren Doctor Named Delegate To Meeting

K. B. Patel, M. D. of Warrenton has been elected as a Delegate from Warren County to the annual meeting of the North Carolina Medical Society to be held at the Pinehurst Hotel and Country Club May 5-8.

The House of Delegates serves as the policy-making body of the North Carolina Medical Society. Each county medical society is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction of 25, while at-large delegates consist of past presidents and secretaries of the State Medical Society. Medical specialty sections are also entitled to a voting member in the House.

The House of Delegates will meet on Thursday afternoon, May 5, and again on Saturday afternoon, May 7. Friday

afternoon, May 6, is reserved for reference committee meetings, at which any interested member wishing to be heard can speak on topics under consideration by the House of Delegates.

### Revival Services Under Way Here

Revival services are underway at Warrenton Pentecostal Holiness Church this week. The services will continue through May 1 and begin each night at 7:30 p. m.

The Rev. Willard Wagner, missionary to the Philippines, will deliver the morning message at 11 a. m. on May 1. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone by the pastor, the Rev. Robert J. Forehand.

## South Warren PTA Sets Goals

The South Warren PTA voted to work on three projects at its meeting on Tuesday night, April 19, at 7:30 o'clock. Following a brief discussion, the projects discussed were adopted as follows:

1. The need for TVs for improved instruction.
2. A P. A. system for the school. This was on the schools plan for accreditation.
3. To see that each pupil in the school receives Weekly Readers for the 1977 summer months.

A voluntary committee was organized to make plans for raising funds for these projects.

The meeting was featured by a talk by Mrs. Rachael Fishel, supervisor of instruction, who spoke on "Promotions and Retentions." She emphasized the importance of retaining pupils who have not mastered the skills needed for their next

grade.

Mrs. Fishel also stressed that the word retention should not be considered a "bad" word in the child's education, but merely to help him obtain a better background for his future grades. Parents were urged to talk with the teachers concerning their children's progress.

An interesting discussion by parents and teachers followed the presentation by Mrs. Fishel, with the parents seemingly having obtained a better understanding of "promotions and retentions" from the information given by the Supervisor of Instruction.

The next PTA meeting will be held on May 24.

### Local Delegation To Attend Dinner

Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairman of the Warren Democratic Executive Committee, reported yesterday that 20 county Democrats are expected to attend the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner activities in Raleigh on Saturday, April 30.

Vice President Walter F. Mondale will be the principal speaker at the \$20 per-plate dinner scheduled for Dorton Arena, State Fairgrounds, at 7 p. m. Other speakers will include Governor James B. Hunt. The dinner will be preceded by a reception at the Arts and Crafts Building on the fairgrounds. Members of the Council of State, the Congressional delegation, other state and party leaders will greet Democrats from all 100 counties.

Mrs. Betty R. McCain, chairman of the N. C. Democratic Executive Committee, said the usual price of \$50 was lowered to \$20 so that more people might attend what is being billed as a "Peoples' Jefferson-Jackson Day." She said up to 2,500 Democrats are expected to converge on Raleigh. The funds realized from the dinner are used to operate activities of the party between elections.

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### Cochrane Furniture Has Record Increase

Cochrane Furniture Company, which has a plant in Warrenton, has reported a record 33 per cent increase in sales for the nine-month period ending February 26, 1977.

Consolidated (unaudited) net sales increased to \$10,361,505 from \$7,792,419 for the nine-month period ended February 28. Consolidated net income was up to \$520,041 relative to \$296,964 for the comparative reporting period.

Earnings per share increased 74 per cent, moving upward from 46 cents to 80 cents for the comparable nine-month period.

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